



## **AUXILIARY POLICE WEAPONS**

### **Directive: 8 - 102**

Date of Issue: July 2013      Amends/Cancels: Chapter VI Sec 3C

---

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Directive is to establish policy and procedures in regards to Auxiliary Police Weapons.

#### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Department of General Services Maryland Capitol Police (DGS-MCP) that Police Officers will only use the level of force necessary to effect and maintain an arrest, protect others from harm, or accomplish some other lawful objective. DGS-MCP identifies weapons Police Officers are authorized to carry and mandates the standards for training and qualification that must be met.

#### **III. PROCEDURES**

##### **A. Principles and Responsibilities**

1. Police Officers are responsible for the auxiliary weapons that have been issued or authorized by the Department and will ensure such weapons are not lost, stolen or misused. While off-duty, secondary weapons will be secured in a manner that prevents unauthorized persons from gaining access to them and keep the weapon in good working order.
2. Only Police Officers that have received and successfully completed the prescribed training and demonstrated proficiency with an auxiliary weapon will be authorized to carry and use the weapon. Successfully completing the prescribed training includes, but is not limited to, achieving a minimum qualifying score on a prescribed course, demonstrating acquired knowledge of the laws concerning the use of the weapon and the understanding of the Department's policies concerning the use of force, escalating/de-escalating force, and deadly force. Demonstrating proficiency with an auxiliary weapon includes safe handling procedures for the use of the weapon and the demonstrated ability to use the weapon in a proper, effective manner.
3. A certified weapons instructor will provide the instruction and qualification for all auxiliary weapons, and document all training and qualifying scores.

4. This Directive identifies authorized weapons that may be carried. The use of these weapons must be consistent with all Department training, General and Special orders, Directives and all applicable laws.
5. All Police Officers will receive copies of all applicable policies and procedures prior to being authorized to carry an auxiliary weapon. The issuance of the copies will be documented, via form 42
6. Police Officers will demonstrate proficiency with a auxiliary weapon whenever required to do so by the Department. Any Officer that fails to demonstrate proficiency with an auxiliary weapon will not be permitted to continue to carry the weapon, until such time as proficiency is demonstrated and documented.
7. Proficiency with the ASP and O.C. spray is mandatory for all Police Officers.
8. When Police Officers travel out-of-state, they shall adhere to the applicable laws of that jurisdiction concerning weapons. It is the responsibility of the Officer to know and understand the laws of other states, territories and the District of Columbia before entering those jurisdictions while traveling.
9. Police Officers will not carry non-issue weapons including, but not limited to, slapsticks, slapjacks, blackjacks, sap gloves, PR 24's, or electronic weapons of any kind, such as stun guns.
10. Flashlights are not issued or authorized by the Department with the intent that Officers use them as defensive weapons. Flashlights and other instruments are not to be utilized as weapons except in the most dire of circumstances when injury to the Officer or another person is imminent and the Officer must take immediate defensive action. In such situations, Police Officers will use the flashlight or similar instrument in a manner that is consistent with the training provided by the Department for the ASP and the mandates of this Directive.
11. While on duty Police Officers will not carry an off duty handgun (backup weapon) in addition to their service handgun.